

Original Research Article

Socio-personal Profile and Demographic Description of Tribal Women Involved in Livestock Sector in the Jharkhand State

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ABSTRACT

Socio-personal characteristics of the respondents may affect their involvement in rearing of dairy animals in a given family which ultimately shows the present condition and situation of tribal women. Study was undertaken for identification of role of livestock towards sustainable livelihood of the tribal women of Jharkhand. Six districts were selected purposively according to their milk production which was high, medium and low respectively (HMPD, MMPD and LMPD). It was further classified into landless, marginal and small farmers. Overall education level of women was very low, they can only read and write but the family education status was slightly better than individual tribal women. Hindu religion was followed by most of them and rest follow Christianity. This area was the home land of aboriginal races such as the Santhals, Mundas, Oraons and Pahariya. Majority of respondents had nuclear family with 4 to 5 family members. Head of the family was male which shows the authority and social meaning of the position within family. Crop farming and agriculture labour were the main occupations for tribal families. Majority of tribal family had *Kaccha* house which shows the low socio-economic condition, poverty, lack of infrastructure, etc. They possessed medium level of herd size and had long term experience in livestock rearing. Tribals keeping livestock for multi-purpose activities like, for dung cake, ploughing, manure, sale their animals and milk, self-consumption and used as disinfectant.

Keywords

Jharkhand,
Livestock, Socio-
personal, Tribes,
Women

Introduction

Dairying has become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural families and has assumed the most important role in providing employment and income generating opportunities particularly for marginal and women farmers. Jharkhand comes at lowest rank in percentage share of cattle population among different state. The present status reported that indigenous cattle were more in numbers as compare to cross

breed and buffaloes. Local cattle are of small frame, lesser height and weight about 100 to 150 kg and grazed extensively. Indigenous cattle usually produce 200 to 250 gm milk for about two months and then get dried up. (Department of animal husbandry and fisheries, Government of Jharkhand, 2016). The lower milk production of local cattle may be due to factors like unproductive land, climatic factor, land were

covered by mountains, hills, forest etc. The tribal population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized groups in India. There are thirty two tribal groups, in that Santhal, Munda, Oraon and Ho are major one. In tribal society, women were more important than in other social groups, because they work harder and the family economy and management depends on them. Tribal women work as men's partners in agriculture, yet their status remains the same. Government of Jharkhand was making efforts for strengthening the dairy sector through various development programmes for welfare of tribal women. It was established beyond doubt that women always participated in dairy and animal husbandry activities in addition to their daily household chores. Women spend more time than men in dairy production activities. Thus, it had good base for scope to know that how far the dairying has contributed to the social development of women. This study had generate empirical data, which will help further to the researcher and extension experts in formulating and implementing extension educational programmes for the tribal women of this region.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in the Jharkhand state. Out of 24 districts of state, six districts were selected purposively according to their milk production status. The districts were divided into three groups, viz low, medium and high milk producing districts, from each group, two districts were selected randomly. From each of the selected district, two blocks were selected based on highest tribal population. From each block, one cluster of village was selected in which 18 tribal women were selected purposively which was divided into

three categories, six from marginal farmer, six from small farmer and six from landless farmer. Total of 216 respondents were selected from twelve blocks. The research data was collected personal interview method using semi-structured interview schedule. Simple statistical tools viz., frequency (f), percentage (%), mean (x) and standard deviation were used for analysis of the data.

Results and Discussion

Education

It was seen from Figure-1 that in pooled data, with respect to education, about 30 per cent of the respondents 'can read and write' category without any formal school education followed by (25.00%) were illiterates. About 23 per cent were educated up to primary level followed by 21.70 per cent had middle school education. It was found that in HMPD (High milk producing districts) majority (30.57%) of respondents were educated up to primary level, in MMPD (Medium milk producing districts) majority (43.00%) of respondents can read and write. In LMPD (Low milk producing districts) up to 47.21 per cent of the tribal women were illiterates. From the data it was found that overall education level was very low among tribal women. In high milk producing districts, the condition was slightly better as compared to medium and low milk producing districts with respect to education. In spite of many efforts in popularizing literacy among the tribal women, they are lagging very much behind in education. The low literacy might be due to poor socioeconomic conditions of parents, lack of educational facilities in the area, higher involvement of boys and girls in livelihood earnings and ignorance towards education. The present finding are in similar line with finding of Gangadharappa *et al.*,

(2005), Singh *et al.*, (2011), Pal (2011), Nagaraja and Kusugal (2013) and Dhanasree (2014).

Family education status

Majority of the tribal families in pooled sample (62%) possessed medium level of family education status and almost 18 per cent possessed low and high level of family education status, respectively. It was found that family education status was better in HMPD in comparison to LMPD in the study area. Similar results were reported by Oraon (1997) where he reported that the overall family education status of the respondents was medium level in Ranchi district of Jharkhand state.

Religion

The Figure-2 shows that in overall population nearly 85 per cent tribal women were Hindus and 15 per cent were Christians. In HMPD and LMPD nearly 80 per cent of the respondents were Hindus whereas in MMPD, cent per cent of the respondents were following Hindu religion. From the study it was found that among Christians also most of them were converted from Hindu religion. The present findings are in similar line with findings of Agrawal (2013) in Orissa state.

Tribal group

A perusal of Figure-3 shows that in pooled sample about 75 per cent of the respondents belonged to Santhal group and rest comes under Oraon, Munda and Pahariya group. There are 30 tribal groups in Jharkhand, which include eight minor tribes, known as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). This area was the home land of aboriginal races such as the Santhals, Mundas, Oraons, Hos, Pahariya, etc. These indigenous people of the area are known as adivasis literally

meaning 'original settlers' or the earliest settlers (Dept. Of animal husbandry and Fisheries, Jharkhand, 2016).

Family type

Figure-4 clearly depicts that from pooled data 55.53 per cent respondent belonged to nuclear family and remaining respondents had joint family. This trend may be due to their awareness regarding the cost of living and difficulties in maintenance of joint family. The findings of present study are in line with the result reported by Singh and Sadangi (2012), Nagaraja and Kusugal (2013) and Islam *et al.*, (2015) who also found that more than 60 per cent respondents were belonged to nuclear family and rest in joint family in Odisha, Karnataka and Jharkhand states respectively.

Family size

A perusal of Figure-5 shows that overall figure indicates that (56.48%) of the respondents were having medium family size followed by large family size (39.87%) and rest in small family size respectively. The study shows that more than 50 percent of the respondents in all the milk producing districts had medium size of family with 4 to 5 number of family members. The similar result was also found by Dhanasree *et al.*, (2014) among tribal women in Andhra Pradesh.

Head of the family

Majority of the tribal household were male headed but only 10 per cent of the tribal houses are female headed. Irrespective of milk production status of the selected districts majority of the respondents belonged to male headed households. It means it described the prevalence, authority and social meaning of the position within their lineage.

Fig.1 Distribution of respondents according to their education

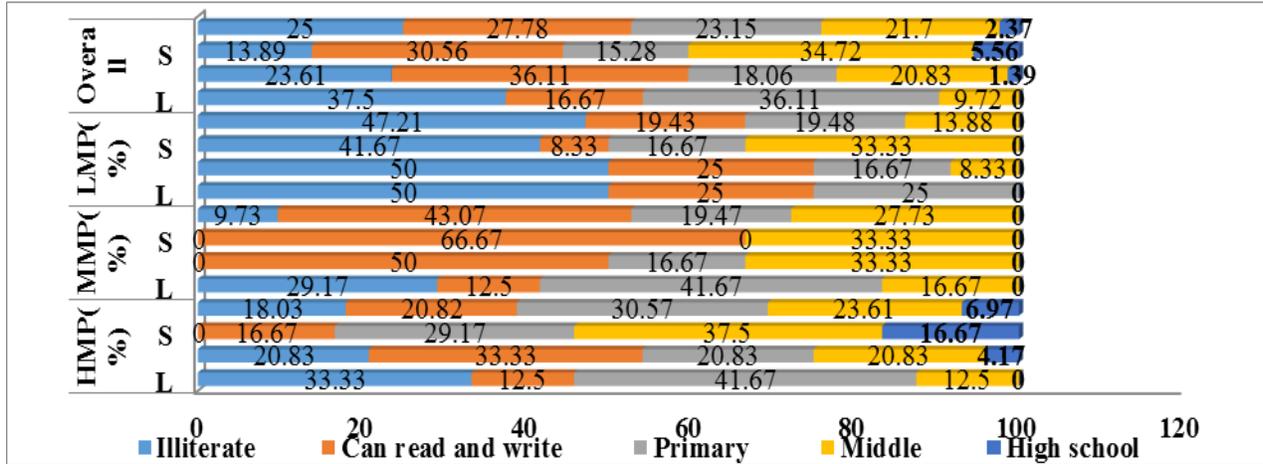


Fig.2 Distribution of respondents according to their religion

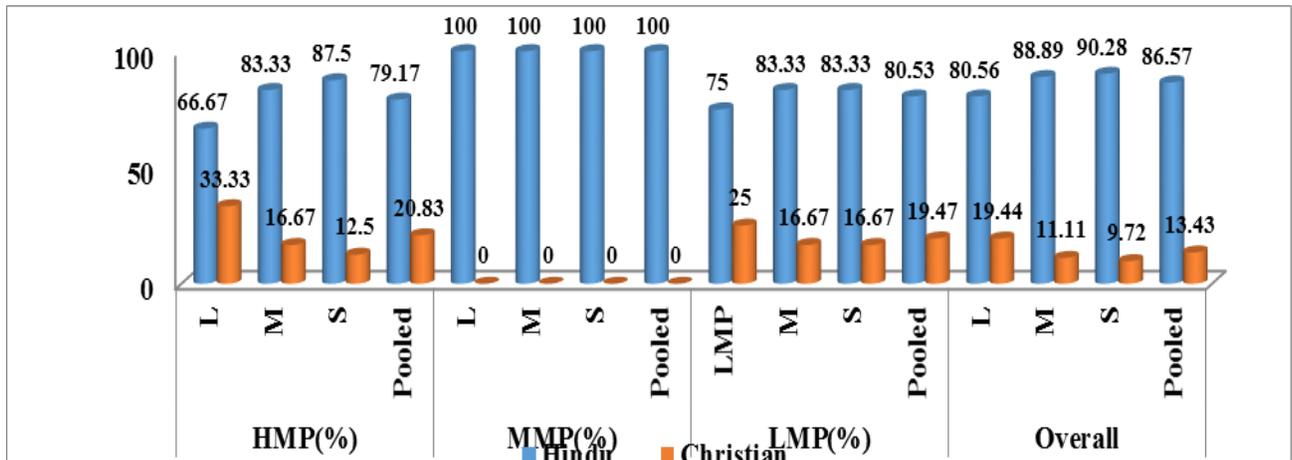


Fig.3 Distribution of respondents according to their tribal group

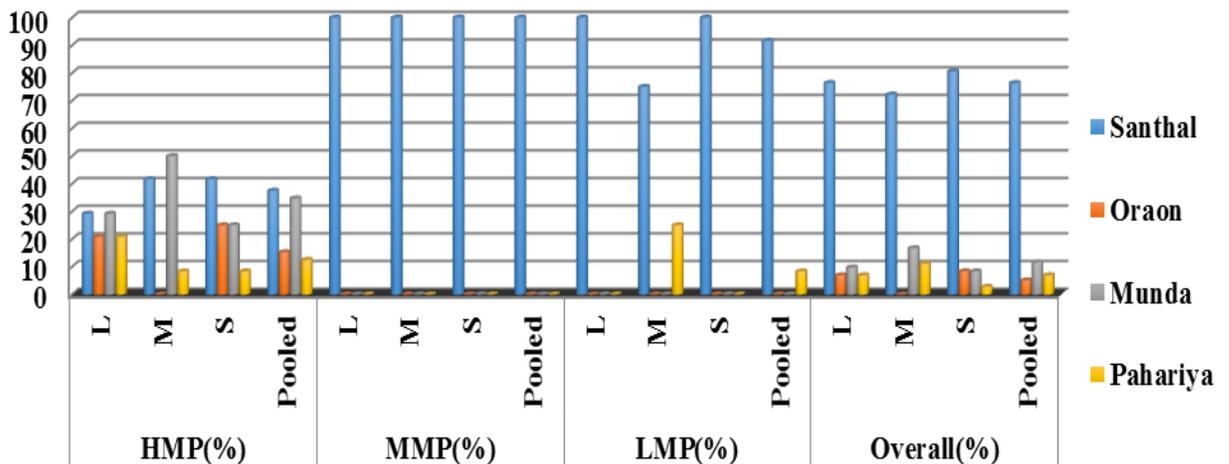


Fig.4 Distribution of respondents according to Family type

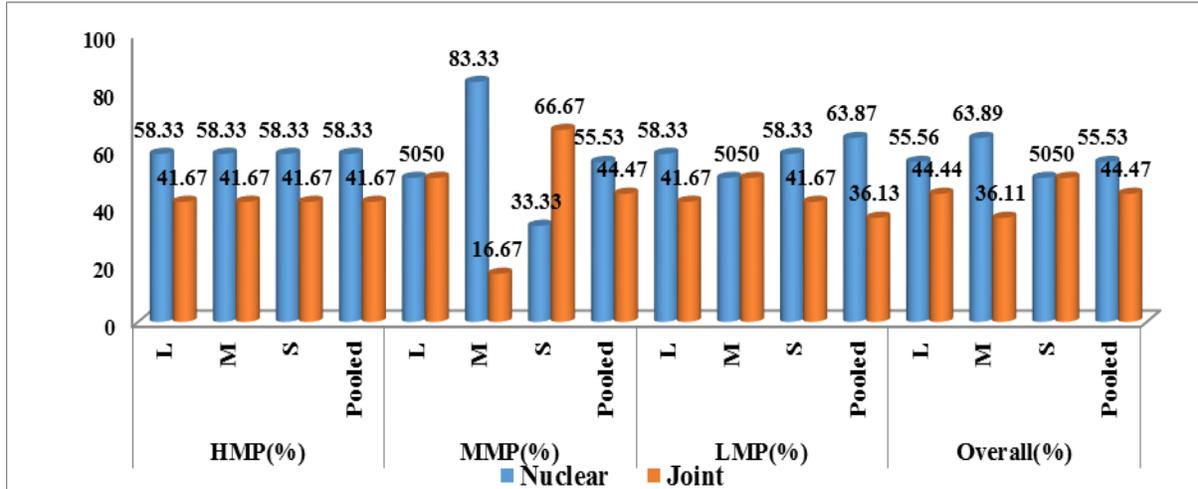


Fig.5 Distribution of respondent according to family size

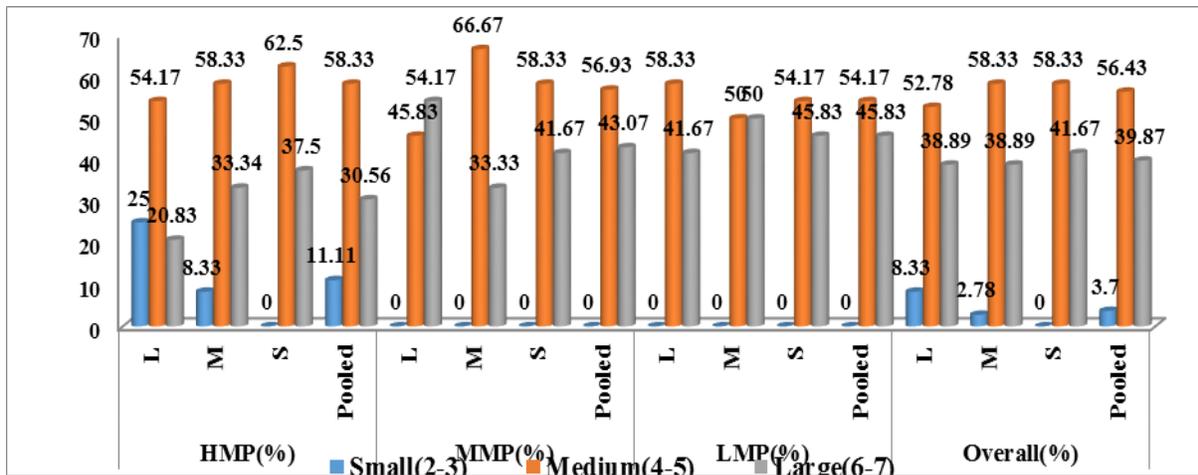


Fig.6 Distribution of respondents according to Main Occupation

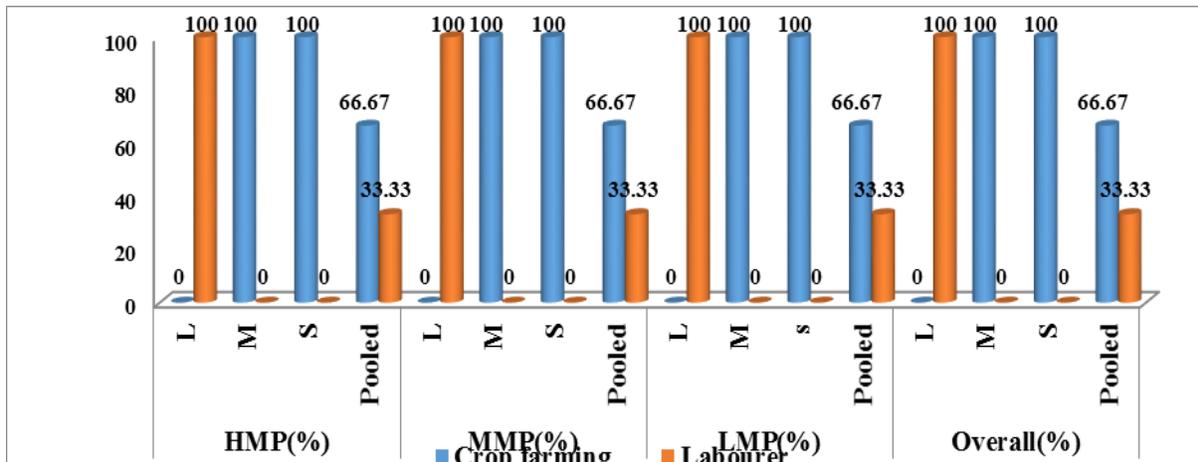


Fig.7 Distribution of respondents according to House type

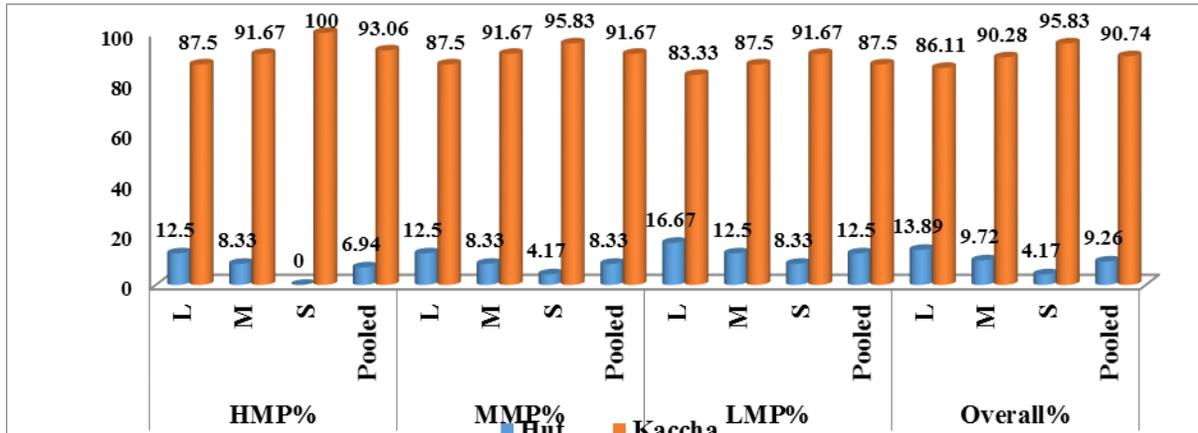
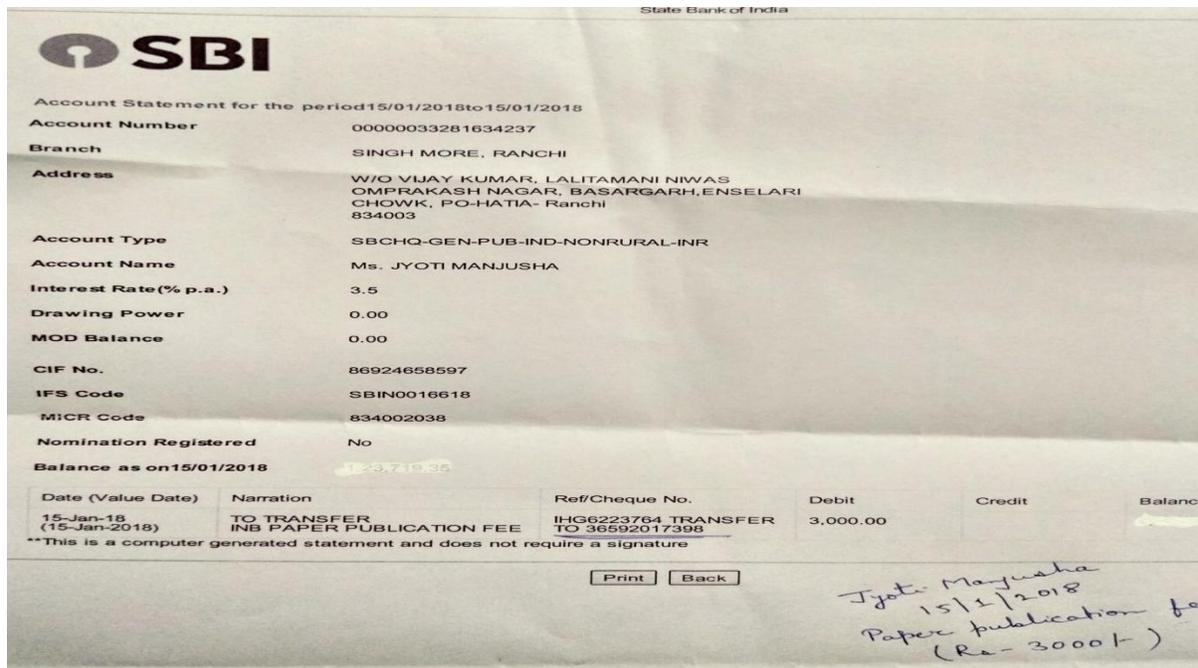
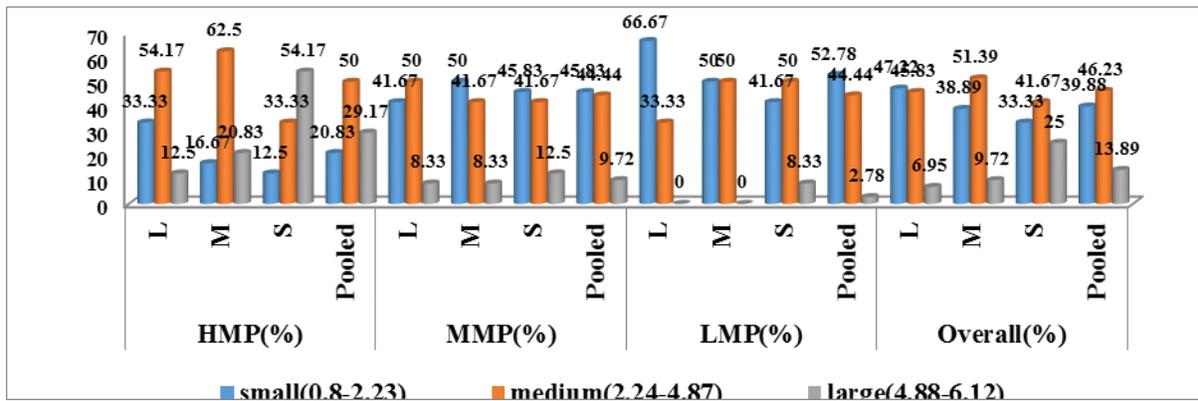


Fig.8 Distribution of respondents according to daily milk yield



Family's main occupation

It referred to the family's major economic activities to earn a livelihood. Figure-6 indicates that the dominance of crop farming followed by labourer as their main occupation in all the response categories. The pooled data shows that 66.67 per cent of the families were practicing crop farming and 33.33 per cent were involved in labourer in MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), building constructions, etc. Agriculture being the back bone of the economy in the area, most of the respondents either belong to farming families or dependent on agriculture labour for their livelihood. The families engaged in wage labour, business and other activities as their main occupation. Tribals in the study area also practicing agriculture as their subsidiary occupation. Especially male members of the family were bound to migrate to other nearby states like Bihar, West Bengal etc in search of empowerment.

There were many reasons like lack of rural employment, fragmentation of land holdings and declining public investment in agriculture, etc. The present findings are in similar line with findings of Islam *et al.*, (2015), Kathiriya *et al.*, (2013), Nagaraja and Kusugal (2013), Oraon (1997) who also reported that cultivation remained the main occupation of majority of the respondents followed by labourer in Jharkhand, Gujarat, Karnataka and Jharkhand states respectively.

House type

It is evident from the Figure-7 that in overall data almost 90 per cent of tribal family having *Kaccha* house and 10 per cent family having hut. There was no mixed or *Pucca* house in study area. More than 85 per cent tribal family had *Kaccha* house in all HMPD, MMPD and LMPD respectively. More number of hut were found in LMPD as compare to HMPD. The low housing status could be attributed to low socio-economic condition, poverty, lack of

infrastructure, rural environment etc. The similar results were also found by Kispotta (2014), Singh and Sadangi (2012), Pal (2009) and Lakra and Cardenas (2002) where they reported that approximately 80 per cent of the respondents had *Kaccha* house followed by hut, mixed and permanent structure in tribals of Chhattisgarh, in Koraput and Rayagada district of Odisha, in Jharkhand and in the tribal areas of south Bihar states respectively.

Animal house

In the overall sample, about 77.00 per cent of the tribal family having *Kaccha* house for their animals and rest 22.22 per cent having hut. In HMPD, MMPD and LMPD almost 80 per cent of the respondents having *Kaccha* house and rest 20 per cent having hut for their animals. In day time they keep their animal outside for grazing and in night inside their house.

Herd size

In pooled data, majority of the tribal family (46.23%) had medium size of herd. About 39.88 and 13.89 per cent of the families also owned small and large herd size (Figure-8). About 50 per cent of the tribal family from HMPD had medium herd size but in MMPD and LMPD majority of the tribal family had small herd size, respectively. From data it was calculated that herd size was better in HMPD as compared to MMPD and LMPD. The present findings are in similar line with findings of Kathiriya *et al.*, (2013) and Gulkari *et al.*, (2014) where they also reported that tribal families possessed medium level of herd size in Rajkot and Anand district of Gujarat states respectively.

The study signified that despite inhabiting in resource rich areas, the tribal women are in underprivileged position in all respects as reflected by their low socio-personal and economic status. Tribal women play a major role in the co-management of their natural, social, economic resources and agricultural development including crop production,

livestock production etc but they remained backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, superstitions, social evils and many other cultural factors. There are enormous scope for enhancement of sustainable livelihoods for tribal population specially women through encouraging scientific livestock rearing, organized marketing system, proper refinement and dissemination of indigenous technologies, institutional support in training and skill development, appropriate extension and communication networks. The interventions visualized needs to be implemented efficiently for all-round development of the tribal women and for ecological stability in the study area.

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